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Public Comments on Amateur Radio Service Communications During Government Disaster Drills:=====

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The Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) works closely with its hospital, healthcare and public safety partners to improve the readiness of our emergency preparedness system. Redundancy for disaster communications is vital to sound planning. In the

2009 severe ice storms that impacted most of the state many of our primary communications systems failed with extended

power outages and ice that damaged antenna infrastructures.

No one in this business expects to use these resources on a

daily basis, but in a disaster HAM radio has repeatedly

demonstrated that it is often the vital communications link of

last resort - and that can save lives. Success of any

preparedness program depends on testing and exercises, and

this includes our amateur radio systems and personnel. We

applaud and support the FCC rule change.